



Program Criteria Comparison

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE TRACK and Maine STEP-UP Program



National Environmental Performance Track and Maine STEP-UP (Smart Tracks for Exceptional Performers & Upward Performers) are voluntary programs designed to foster and reward environmental excellence. Performance Track is a national EPA program and Maine STEP-UP is a statewide Department of Environmental Quality program. This fact sheet summarizes and compares criteria for the Performance Track Program and the Leadership Track of the Maine STEP-UP Program. Maine STEP-UP has three different levels (Commitment Track, Leadership Track, and Sustainability Track). For additional information on these programs or incentives, see program web sites or contact program coordinators.

Common Program Criteria:

- *Compliance Record:* Facility must pass a comprehensive compliance screen covering federal, state, and local regulations.
- *Future Performance:* Program requires facility to define specific goals, establish baselines, and normalize performance for a set of varied environmental commitments.
- *Community Outreach:* Facility must provide a plan to identify and respond to local concerns and inform community of important matters that affect it.
- *Self-Certification:* Senior facility manager must certify that all statements made to program are true, accurate, and complete.
- *Site Visits:* Periodic Site visits are conducted as part of the program.
- *Membership Term:* Membership is for three years.

Maine STEP-UP - Additional Criteria:

- *EMS:* Facility must become ISO 14001 certified. Facility must integrate EMS into the job description of employees.
- *Future Performance:* Facility must make a total of five commitments (regardless of facility size), including a commitment to reduce energy use.
- *Public Involvement:* Facility must seek public involvement in setting goals.
- *Performance Reporting:* State requires that facilities disclose progress twice annually to program coordinator. Facility must also present their progress twice a year in a public forum where community members and state officials are invited.
- *Mentoring:* Facility is required to establish a relationship with businesses enrolled in the Commitment Track.

Web Site:

<http://www.maine.gov/dep/oc/stepup/index.htm>

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Performance Track - Additional Criteria:

- *EMS Components:* Common elements include: an EMS with a written policy, planned targets and goals, clear roles and responsibilities for meeting goals, plans for checking and correcting non-conformance issues, and documented management review. (STEP-UP requires facilities to implement these components, but over three years).
- *EMS Independent Assessment:* Implementation of a third party certified Environmental Management System is required. (STEP-UP requires facilities to implement these components, but over three years).
- *EMS Cycle:* Facility must have completed one full EMS cycle including implementation, evaluation, and review.
- *Past Performance:* Applicants should provide two past achievements (small facilities only need to provide one), with only one achievement to any one indicator. Achievements need to be in standard format.
- *Future Performance:* Facility must make a commitment to future performance on four environmental indicators from at least two unique categories. Commitments must be reported in a standard format.
- *Community References:* Facility must provide community references (e.g., member of a citizen group, union, local agency).
- *Annual Performance Report:* Facility must include EMS data and qualitative and quantitative information illustrating a facility's progress towards its goals.

Web Site:___

www.epa.gov/performance-track

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